

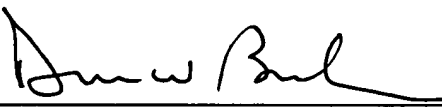
## Remarks

Although exception is taken to the prior art rejections, rejected claims 1-4 have been cancelled, leaving only allowable claims 5-18.

In view of the foregoing, request is made for timely issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper or thing referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: September 20, 2004

  
Don W. Bulson

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